

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



A Christian family who cares for you!

*Welcome to historic Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

2901 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, FL. 33602

www.ZionLutheranTampa.com

813-228-8272 to leave message or for emergency call:

Rev. Kenneth Redmann, Pastor 941-457-7576 (cell)

revredmann@gmail.com

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026**

In Christian Love: A Statement on the Lord's Supper

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church believes, teaches, and confesses that in the Sacrament of the Altar—also known as the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, and Communion—we receive the true body and true blood of Christ given to us under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our union with Him and with one another. The Lord Jesus Christ invites sinners to His table, sinners who repent of their sins and trust His promises. Christ Himself makes sinners worthy of receiving His good gifts in this Sacrament.

In Christian love, we are compelled to share that Scripture does warn us that it is possible to receive this Sacrament unworthily! So, what does this mean for us? It all comes down to our Lord's own Words when He instituted the Sacrament: **"Take, eat; this is My body,"** and, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood"** (Matthew 26:26; 1 Corinthians 11:25). The Apostle Paul says that **"anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself"** (see 1 Corinthians 11:27–32). This is especially true when we ignore, redefine, or disbelieve the words of Jesus, which we, as one body, confess to be true.

Therefore, we ask, please, that those who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or who hold to a confession different from that of this congregation and of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod first speak with the Pastor.

Even if you discern not to receive the Sacrament, we invite you to approach the altar rail and receive a blessing! Everyone who comes to our Church is a blessing to us, and we wish to bless you in return. Please simply cross your arms over your chest to receive the blessing from the Lord. Thank you, in Christian love.

The Preparation of our hearts and minds:

Christ the Crucified Comes to Save Us by the Word of Faith

The Lord who “*laid the foundation of the earth*” (Job 38:4) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He has “*entered into the springs of the sea*” and “*walked in the recesses of the deep*” (Job 38:16), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been “*a long way from the land, beaten by the waves*” and tossed about by hostile winds (Matt. 14:24). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, “*Do not be afraid,*” and He reaches out His hand to save us (Matt. 14:27, 31). “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (Rom. 10:13), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard “*through the word of Christ*” (Rom. 10:17). “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (Rom. 10:8).

The Preparation and Sharing the Peace

Please Stand

Hymn We’re Together Again (*located on the front inside cover of: This Far By Faith hymnal*)

Sharing the Peace

We joyfully greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph 4:1-3).

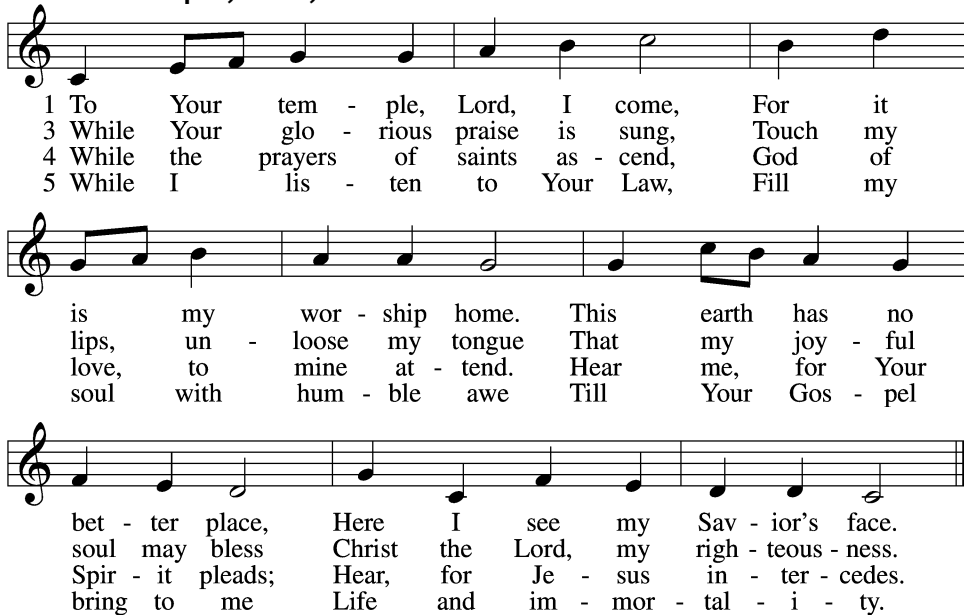
Be Seated

(Order of Worship is taken from Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting 3, pg 184)

Confession and Absolution

981 To Your Temple, Lord, I Come

sts. 1, 3–5



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it
 3 While Your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my
 4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of
 5 While I lis - ten to Your Law, Fill my

is my wor - ship home. This earth has no
 lips, un - loose my tongue That my joy - ful
 love, to mine at - tend. Hear me, for Your
 soul with hum - ble awe Till Your Gos - pel

bet - ter place, Here I see my Sav - ior's face.
 soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righ - teous - ness.
 Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.
 bring to me Life and im - mor - tal - i - ty.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Reception of Kelly Guerrieri as an Associate Member

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R: *Yes, I do.*

P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R: *Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R: *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R: *I do.*

P: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you desire to become an Associate Member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church?

R: *I do.*

P: Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R: *I will, with the help of God.*

P: Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are an Associate Member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing Kelly to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling her both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. grant that by Your Word and Spirit she may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The pastor will extend the right hand of fellowship to Kelly and we welcome her into our Christian family.

Please Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



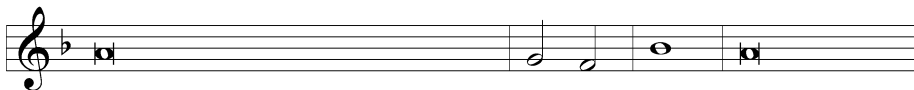
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



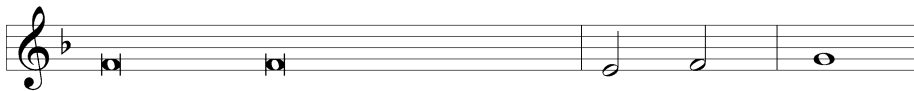
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



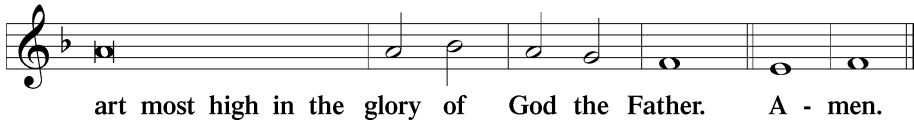
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Be Seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

¹Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”
⁸The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Psalm 67

Bless us, O God, and smile on us,
so that the world sees who You are,
so that the world knows how you save.
Bless us, O God, and smile on us.

Refrain

O Holy One, may you receive
a harvest of praise from all the world.

Nations may sing to You for joy,
because Your justice is for all,
because Your guidance is for all.
Nations may sing to You for joy.

Refrain

Now is the harvest, we are blessed;
may God continue blessing us,
may all the earth give praise to God.
Now is the harvest, we are blessed.

Refrain

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Epistle

Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

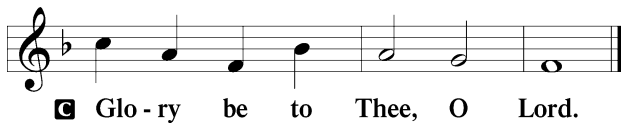
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.



²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need

sts. 1-4



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
 3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
 meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -
 woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511-69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-61
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: Confidence in God

Rev. Kenneth Redmann

Please Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



Offering

When you come forward for Holy Communion, please place your tithes and gifts in the Offering plate at the front of the left pew.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

L: O Lord, grant us and Your whole Church on earth unity and harmony, that our life may be marked by worship, witness, prayer and service to those within and outside of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. *[especially we remember those gathered together this day _____]*. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Father, care for those who cry to You, whether beset with grief, sorrow, pain or trouble *[especially _____]*. Be pleased for Christ's sake to answer them according to Your will.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: Merciful Lord, bless all who are about to receive Christ's body and blood from this altar. Grant that these crumbs from Your table may strengthen us in faith and love, united with You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

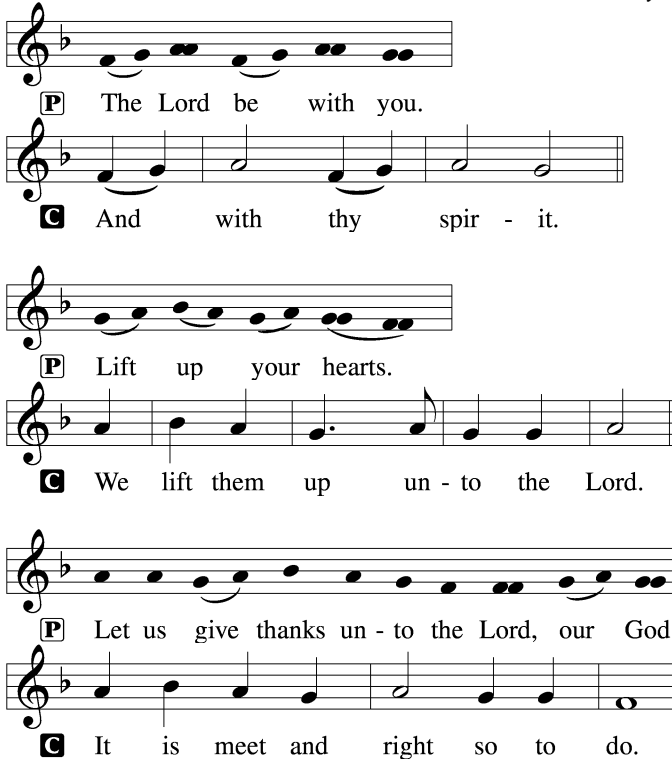
C: hear our prayer.

Lord God, giver of all that is good, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your grace, that we may endure the changes and chances of this mortal life and be found worthy when our Savior comes to bring to completion all things; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

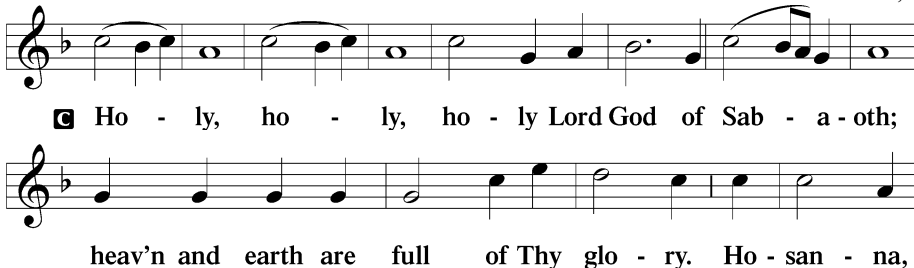
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

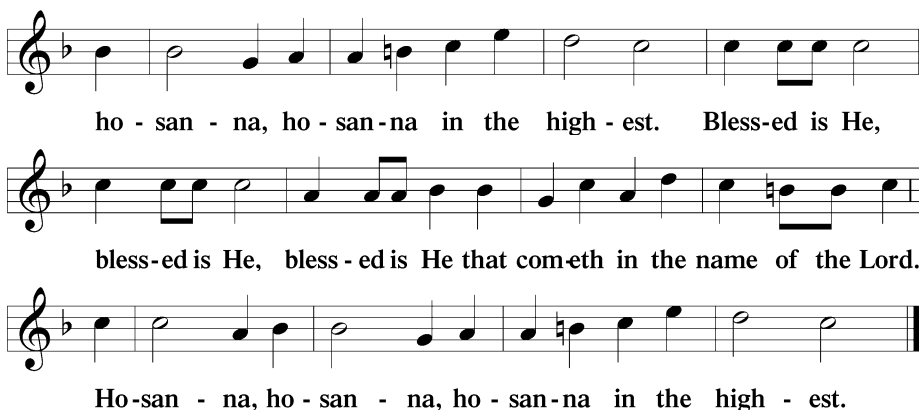
Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father** who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

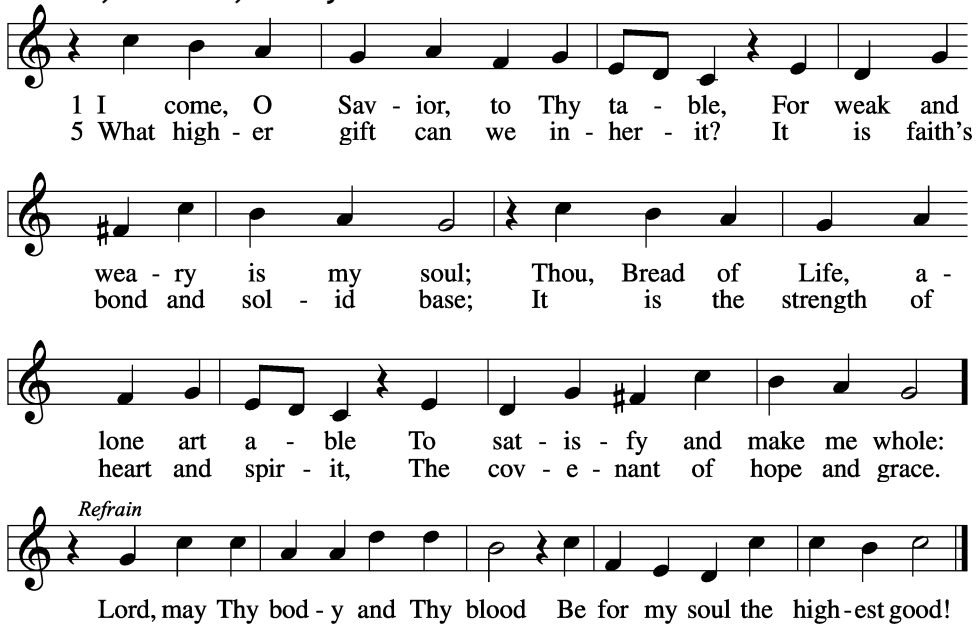


world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Be Seated

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

sts. 1, ref, 5



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000932
Tune: Public domain

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Please Stand

Nunc Dimittis

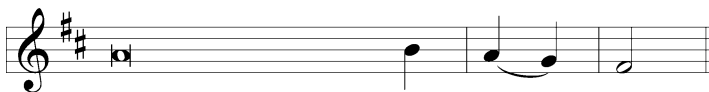
Luke 2:29-32

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



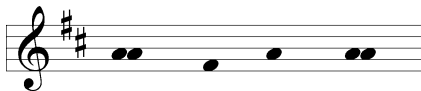
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



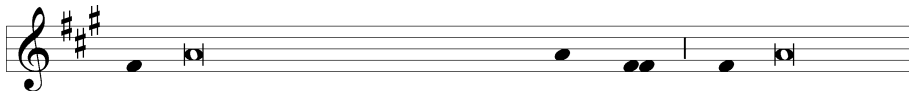
A Bless we the Lord.



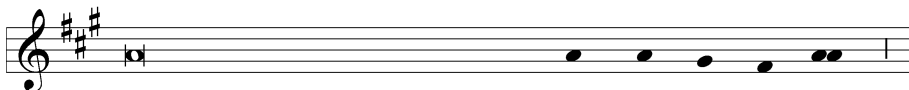
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

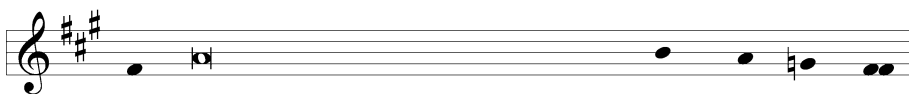
Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
 2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
 3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
 4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
 For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
 Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
 Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
 Thine can never fail.
 Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
 Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
 Never let me fall.
 I am trusting Thee forever
 And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
 Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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The Promise of our Lord:

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, (or imagine) according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹ Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Eph 3:20-21 KJV).

Thank you!

We are so blessed to have you worship with us!

CALENDAR of MINISTRY EVENTS:

Aug	Sun	16	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	17	1-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	20	9:00am Tampa Circuit Pastors Winkel at Christ the King, Riverview 3-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	21	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS:

Aug	Sun	23	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	24	5:30-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	27	1-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	28	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

SERVANTS of THE LORD for TODAY:

Organist: Linda Redmann
Lector: James Halfacer
Liturgist: Kevin Aponte
Counter: Sarah Brown
Altar Guild: Sarah Brown
Elder & Communion Asst.: Kevin Aponte

Duet: Linda Redmann & Kevin Aponte
Flutist: Kelly Guerrieri
Greeter/Usher: Don Campbell
Asst. Counter: (one is needed)

We're Together Again

We're together again...

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Praising the Lord...

¹⁸ Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord (Psalm 102:18).

in one accord...

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ (I Corinthians 12:12).

Something good is gonna happen...

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Something good is in store...

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 10:16).

Lutherans for Life

August 16 – Pentecost 12 – “Thus says the LORD: Keep justice, and do righteousness ...” (Isaiah 56:1, 7)! Keep justice for innocent unborn babies and for every human life, dear Christian friends. “For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all” (Romans 11:32). All have sinned and fallen short—every age, every ability, every race, both genders—and God has had mercy on all in Christ our crucified and risen Lord of life! Let us pray for His mercy, along with the Canaanite woman’s cry for her daughter (Matthew 21:22), even when we don’t receive an answer to our for-life prayers right away.

The RICHES of our Liturgy • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article by the former Commission on Worship for the Reporter Insert entitled “Taking a Tour of Heaven.”

*Worship is like no place else in this world.
But there is one place that it does resemble, and that is heaven*

Offertory

“What shall I render to the Lord?” Truth is, we have nothing to render him. We brought nothing into this world, and we will take nothing with us when we depart.

As Jesus so poignantly tells us, our treasures are already stored up for us in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). There is, however, an offering that we do make, both now in our worship and one day in heaven itself. It is the sacrifice of thanksgiving as we call on the name of the Lord (Ps. 116:17).

In the Apology to the Augsburg Confession (Article 24), this eucharistic sacrifice is carefully distinguished from the propitiatory sacrifice of Christ. The sacrifice for sins belongs to him alone.

Every time we try to grab that honor for ourselves, we come up short — very short. But when we recognize our rightful place — that we are on the receiving end of God's merciful goodness — then the sacrifice of thanksgiving cannot help but pour forth from our lips as we give our thanks to the One who gave everything for us.

The giving of our firstfruits, whether it is money or possessions, time or talents, is also a part of this sacrifice of thanksgiving. Our mouths cannot remain separated from the rest of our bodies. If the thanksgiving is flowing from our lips, then it will also find expression in the giving of our very selves for the sake of Christ and the neighbor.